## PUTTING A FULL STOP TO SEXUAL, DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE. fullstop.org.au

1800 FULL STOP 1800 385 578

## **NSW Government Launch Awareness Your Say, Your** Way Campaign. Reporting Sexual Violence in Focus.

Date: 15 April 2025

Notes to Editors: Please use "Full Stop Australia" (full name) when referring to the organisation in a media story. The contents of this press release can be used as quotes attributable to Full Stop Australia Director of Clinical and Client Services, Tara Hunter.

Full Stop Australia welcomes the launch of the Your Say, Your Way campaign and ongoing commitment from NSW Police and the NSW Government to improve reporting experiences and prioritise the agency of victim-survivors reporting sexual violence.

We remain committed to working with the government and alongside victim-survivors to ensure that anyone who reports sexual violence to police is safe and supported.

Statistics and victim-survivor experiences tell us improvements to the way the justice system treats victim-survivors of sexual violence are badly needed. In 2024, BOCSAR revealed a 42% increase in reported sexual assaults in NSW over the past five years. Despite this increase in incident reporting, the path to justice for victim-survivors remains fraught with challenges, as underscored by BOCSAR's May 2024 report on attrition of sexual violence in NSW courts and the damning rate of conviction for these serious crimes.

There are also significant barriers to reporting to police. According to the latest ABS Personal Safety Survey, the vast majority of victim-survivors (92%) don't report to police for a range of reasons, including a fear of not being believed (25%), a belief that police cannot do anything about the crime (28.5%) and a fear of legal processes (13%).

"We applaud the ongoing work to improve the pathways to safety and engagement with legal responses to sexual violence. Improving community knowledge of the options and processes available to formally report sexual violence is a key part of ensuring victimsurvivors can make informed decisions about what works best for them." said Full Stop Australia's Director of Clinical and Client Services, Tara Hunter.

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To further improve justice system responses to sexual violence, Full Stop Australia is also calling on the NSW Government to invest in introducing a Sexual Violence Justice Navigation program in NSW, as set out in our 2024 pre-budget submission to the Government.

Sexual Violence Justice Navigators are dedicated support people who assist victimsurvivors of sexual violence to navigate the often-complex aftermath of violence. Sexual Violence Justice Navigators can help victim-survivors decide between multiple recovery and justice options, exercise their rights, better understand the criminal justice process, liaise with agencies and services, and access much needed support. We believe these roles would significantly alleviate the retraumatising impact of engaging with the legal system for victim-survivors.

Full Stop Australia runs the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline. Anyone impacted by sexual violence in NSW can get free, confidential, 24/7 trauma-specialist counselling support. Contact the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline on 1800 424 017.

Anyone in Australia impacted by sexual, domestic, and family violence can call 1800 **FULLSTOP (1800 385 578).** 

**END** 

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